

State Department review completed

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OSD review completed.

28 February 1964

NSC Review Completed

NRO review(s) completed.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Meeting of the Special Group, 27 February 1964

PRESENT: Mr. Bundy, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Vance, and Mr. McCone.

Also present were Colonel Ralph D. Steakley and
Dr. Albert Wheelon.

JCS review completed.

1. NRO Forecast

The NRO forecast for March 1964 was approved.

2. JRC Forecast

The JRC forecast for March 1964 was approved with the following provisos:

a. In regard to paragraph 8, [redacted] Missions, both Mr. Johnson and particularly Mr. McCone emphasized that the Cubans had the definite capability to knock one of these aircraft down, considering the five nautical mile point of approach. In view of the undesirability of any such incident at this time, it was agreed that Mr. Vance would obtain a reading from the JCS to determine if the risk was commensurate with the requirement.

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b. In regard to paragraph 9, [redacted] Photography, it was agreed that strict adherence to international air routes would be observed, and there would be no departure therefrom without reference to the Special Group.

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3. U-2 Reconnaissance in SEASIA

In regard to the Brockway McMillan memorandum of 26 February dealing with delineation of overflight areas for unsanitized U-2 aircraft in Southeast Asia, the basic paragraphs 1 through 4 were rewritten to read as follows:

(1) South Viet Nam;

(2) That part of North Viet Nam no farther than 30 miles north of the South Viet Nam border nor 30 miles inland from the coast line;

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(3) Those parts of Laos and Cambodia no farther inland than 30 miles from the South Viet Nam border nor 30 miles inland from the coast line.

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-2-

The entire question of deeper penetration of North Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia was placed in temporary abeyance pending resolution by higher authority. In this context, it remains to be determined whether military pilots in military aircraft or non-military pilots in sanitized aircraft can perform the deeper penetrations with the least risk of international incident and ensuing publicity should one of the aircraft make a forced landing or crash in denied territory.


Peter J. Jansup

Distribution

Mr. Johnson
Mr. Vance
✓ Mr. McCone

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